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Copy 6 of 8

30 August 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : Conversation with General Carter Regarding Project
OXCART 29 August

1. At the conclusion of our meeting with the representatives from NORAD and ADC on radar suppression methods for the flight envelope of the OXCART vehicle in excess of Mach 2.2, we attempted to coordinate with your office a draft statement jointly prepared in order to permit Colonel Wild to present it to his superiors at NORAD as an agreed position. We discovered that you were not available, and because Colonel Wild had to catch an airplane from Baltimore prior to your return, we took the liberty of seeking out General Carter to get his reaction to the draft statement, as well as his informal concurrence in its contents.

2. The statement which we carried forward to General Carter reads as follows:

"There is a possibility that classified USAF experimental aircraft will be operating in your area of interest in the near future. These aircraft will in some instances be flying at speeds in excess of Mach 2.2. You are being advised of these activities to insure that in the event of detection and tracking of these aircraft there will be no inadvertent security compromise of the vehicles involved. Any information pertaining to aircraft tracked at unusually high speeds will be treated as classified data (SECRET) and will not be reported or discussed on non-secure circuits."

General Carter's reaction to the above, based upon his NORAD experience, was that he saw no substantive objection to it in its present form, but that he felt Dr. Charyk as DNRO should also be asked to agree to its thrust

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USAF and NRO
review(s) completed.

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with, of course, the understanding that you would do the same. He added that beyond Dr. Charyk there might be others whose opinion might have to be solicited in due course, not excluding the Special Group. On this last point I suggested to General Carter that it would be less contentious perhaps if we considered this statement as simply an extension of our in-flight emergency procedures manual for OXCART which we do not plan to request Special Group concurrence on, since I said that it was my feeling that if the Special Group became involved in operational details to this extent this early in the flight experience of OXCART, there would be no end to the tedious coordination required further downstream.

3. While I believe General Carter agreed in substance with my remark, he did not remove the possibility that the DCI might wish to travel this course. We concluded with the informal agreement that Colonel Wild was free to discuss the message as presented with his NORAD superiors, while we in turn would accept responsibility for coordination with you and DNRO. We agreed that no promulgation of this statement to regional or sector commands of NORAD would be attempted until the coordination cycle had been completed which we felt could be accomplished well within the time remaining between now and the date when Kelly Johnson is capable of exceeding Mach 2.2 with the OXCART vehicle.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Acting Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

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